THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The input output norms are fixed by an inter Department Technical Committee known as "Special Advance Licensing Committee" in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. The Committee consists of members of the technical authorities of concerned Administrative Ministries. Input-output norms are fixed by this Committee after taking into consideration the data furnished by the exporters and the views of the concerned Departments. The fixation and review of norms is a continuous process. While there is no system of pre or post export audit for verification of the authenticity of Input-outpur norms so fixed, with significant changes of efficiency, scale of operation and in prices, the norms are also modified as and when required.

MNCs and Foreign Companies capturing Domestic Market through Advertisements

5837. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the multinationals and foreign companies which have come to India after liberalisation have virtually captured the domestic market on the basis of concerted advertisements through the electronic and print media and through other means of advertisements and Indian companies are no match to them; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of domestic companies in the domestic market against the onslaught of foreign companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No such instance of capturing the domestic market has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

Impact of Exim Policy on Knitwear Units

5838. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated 7th April, 1995 captioned "knitwear units hit by new exim policy and opening of the economy";

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of acrylic fibre have shot up abnormally from Rs. 80 per kg. in February, 1995 to Rs. 100 new;

(c) whether Government have received any Memorandum/Representation in this regard from the wool and woolens export Promotion Council; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to enable the exporters to complete in the international market and save them from blocking of their funds to the tune of Rs. 43 per kg. for a period of six months, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Before the announcement of the Revised Edition: (30th March, 1995) of the Exim Policy, the exporters were facing hardship and were not eligible for transferability of advance licence where the export obligation was discharged by exporting the goods in respect of which the benefits of Rule 191A or 191B of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 or input stage credit

under Rule 56A or 57A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 had been availed or in respect of any of the inputs used in the manufacture of export product. To obviate this difficulty and to rule out the possibility of double benefits accruing to the exporters on this account, it has been laid down that material imported under the Duty Exemption Scheme shall be subject to the payment of additional customs duty equal to the excise duty at the time of import and the said additional customs duty is adjustable in the prescribed manner.

South African Proposal for Setting up Indian Ocean Trade Block

5839. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that South Africa has proposed the setting up of an Indian Ocean Trade Block;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has also supported India to join the trade block; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government is favourably inclined to the suggestion for cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries.

India recently participated in an expert level meeting of 7 Indian Ocean Rim countries (viz. Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius at Port Louis on March 29-31, 1995. The meeting agreed on the principles objectives and future action programmes of an Indian Ocean Rim Initiative beginning with these seven countries to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource development.

MMTC Cheated of Gold Coins

5840. SHRI GHUFRAM AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC was cheated of gold coins worth lakhs of rupees by some representatives of a private firm recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the MMTC have taken any steps to recover the dues and propose to change its policy regarding sale of gold; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) On 8.3.1995 one Shri Arun Jain said to be representative of M/s. Sugandh Fragrances, Village Udaipur, Bhiwadi Alwar (Rajasthan) approached MMTC's Delhi Regional Office at Karol Bagh with Pay Order No. 116445 dated 7.3.1995 for Rs. 4,76,206.50 drawn on Canara Bank, Karol Bagh, New Delhi for purchase of 93 Gold Medallions. On receipt of Pay order, MMTC authorised delivery of 93 Gold Medallions to Shri Arun Jain.

The Pay Order was sent to MMTC's bankers, Canara Bank, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi for crediting the amount to MMTC's account on 13th